

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on December 31, 2003 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19. By way of this Response and Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 10, 11, 12, and 13 without disclaimer or prejudice and amended claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, and 19. After entry of these amendments, claims 1-9 and 14-19 remain in the above-identified patent application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 31, 2003, and also render all currently pending claims at issue patentably distinct over the references of record.

I. SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "'Described is a' should be replaced with --A--." Therefore, the Applicant has amended the abstract to replace "Described is a" with "A," and also made a minor alteration to the abstract for readability in view of this change. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection to the abstract of the disclosure.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13-14 and 17-19 because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner identified objectionable language in each of these claims and also provided a recommended amendment to address each objection. Therefore, the Applicant has amended the claims as recommended by the Examiner to address the claim objections. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objections to claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13 (cancelled), 14 (cancelled) and 17-19.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 14 and 16-19 2, 6, 9-10, 14, 17, 20, 23, 25, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 5,640,002 as issued to Ruppert et al on June 17, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as "Ruppert"). In addition, the

Examiner rejected claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruppert in view of U.S. patent no. 6,539,422 as issued to Hunt et al on March 25, 2003 (hereinafter referred to as "Hunt"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as originally filed are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the references of record. However, Applicant has amended the claims to further distinguish Applicant's invention. More specifically, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite "a modular attachment interface for selectively coupling the mobile computer to said circuitry such that the mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality provided by the circuitry when the mobile computer is coupled to said modular attachment interface." In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 5 to recite "a second modular attachment interface for selectively coupling to said first modular attachment interface such that the mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality provided by said circuitry when said second modular attachment interface is coupled to said first modular attachment interface." Furthermore, Applicant has amended independent claim 14 to recite "a second modular attachment interface for coupling to said first modular attachment interface such that the mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality provided by said circuitry when said second modular attachment interface is coupled to said first modular attachment interface. As the cited references, including Ruppert and Hunt, disclose a single hand-held PID with integrated RFID functionality while the amended claims set forth a separate RFID extension with circuitry for RFID functionality that is selectively coupled to a separate mobile computer such that the mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality it otherwise lacks when coupled through a modular attachment interface, it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims, and the claims that depend there from, contain language that clearly distinguish the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

IV. CONCLUSION


Applicant respectfully submits that the above-identified application as amended is now in condition for allowance and the Applicant therefore earnestly requests such allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to discuss the foregoing

response and amendment, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicant have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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